



## WATERSHEDS

Watershed programs traditionally have a single-objective, such as water quality or stream restoration. The CALFED Watershed Program is the first to recognize that locally-led watershed activities can yield multiple benefits, both locally and statewide. The CALFED Program is designed to help meet all CALFED agency objectives: a healthy ecosystem, improved water quality, greater supply reliability, and a stronger Delta levee system.

With the Programmatic Watershed Program Plan finalized, the Watershed Program achieved accomplishments this year that also help lay the groundwork for future activities, including the following:

- Developed an initial strategy to guide program implementation through the first three years.
- Formed an Interagency Watershed Advisory Team to provide technical assistance to local watershed groups, and to coordinate and expedite permit reviews and approvals.
- Developed a grant program to support locally-based watershed projects throughout the Bay-Delta system in 2001.
- Began negotiations on a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure that related state and federal watershed programs are better coordinated.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** The two goals of the Watershed Program are to provide assistance, both financial and technical, for watershed activities that help achieve the mission and overall objectives of CALFED, and to promote collaboration and integration among existing and future local watershed programs.

The Watershed Program developed an initial "programmatic" strategy to guide implementation for the first two to three years. This strategy demonstrates the value and contributions of watershed management using a community based and locally led approach to achieving CALFED goals for the Bay-Delta system and broader solution area. The technical and financial resources made available by the state and federal governments will be used to implement the program.

As part of this initial demonstration effort, during the first two to three years of implementation, the Watershed Program will develop and conduct a program and activity evaluation process. The objective of the evaluation process is twofold. First, it will provide information about the performance and effects of selected implementation activities. Second, it will help CALFED agencies, program stakeholders, and local Communities to better determine and quantify the contributions of various watershed management activities to the health and productivity of the Bay-Delta system. With the additional information gained from this evaluation effort, CALFED agencies will refine the Watershed Program Plan by developing a Strategic Plan for Long-Term Implementation. This Strategic Plan will be much more specific than the current programmatic document, and will become, along with the adaptive management process, the primary guide for long-term implementation of the Watershed Program.